

Rural employment schemes through handicrafts

1295. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the schemes for rural employment through handicrafts prevalent in villages to improve quality of handicrafts as well as solve unemployment problem?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH N AIDU) The Scheme for rural Employment under handicrafts are taken up by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) which seek to solve unemployment in the rural areas are training for skill up gradation through;

- Training Scheme "A" in all crafts other than carpet.
- Training Scheme "B" only for carpet.
- Apprentice training scheme "C"
- Training to Trainers and Master craftsmen.

The schemes which seeks to improve quality of handicrafts include:

- Assistance for Design & Technical Development.
- Design Development project of the Central and State Handicrafts Corporation.
- Supply of improved/modern tools to artisans.

Under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) also which has been launched by the Ministry of Rural Development w.e.f. 1.4.99 covering various aspects of self-employment, such as organisation of the poor into Self-Help Groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing, handicraft activities can be taken up for self employment. It is envisaged that 50% of the group formed in each Block should be exclusively for women who will account for at least 40% of the Swarozgaris.

Funds for rural development in Bihar

1296. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the total amount allocated to Bihar for rural development and various other programmes in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of overall economic assistance provided to each State for rural development during the last three years?

(Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi)